24. NEW RECORD OF *HELIOTHIS PELTIGERA* DENIS AND SCHIFFERMULLER ON SUNFLOWER

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* Linn.) is a new introduction as an oilseed crop in the Punjab State. Because of its unique organoleptic and other properties it can be exploited for a variety of purposes. A detailed bibliography of insects associated with this crop throughout the world had been reported (Rajamohan 1976). Twenty nine species of insects and one species of mite had been reported feeding on sunflower in Tamil Nadu (Rangarajan *et al.* 1973); 42 species of insects, 2 mites and one bird from Punjab (Sandhu *et al.* 1973). *Heliothis peltigera* was recorded causing damage to sunflower during April-May in 1978 and 1980 at Ludhiana (Punjab).

Occurrence of *H. peltigera* on sunflower is a first report from India. The larvae feed on leaves and flower heads. One to six larvae were observed feeding on a single head. Infestation was comparatively more in the semi-opened heads. Fully-opened heads and closed flower heads had fewer larvae in them. Initially the larva attacked the bracts and later started feeding on developing seeds. Advanced stage larvae bored deep into the flower head.

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25. NOTES ON THE MATING BEHAVIOUR IN *LACCOTREPHES GRISEUS* GUER AND *L. ROBUSTUS* STALL (HETEROPTERA: NEPIDAE)

(*With a text-figure*)

Introduction

Information pertaining to the mating behaviour of aquatic insects, in particular Nepidae, is meagre except for the passing observations by Rao (1969) on *Laccotrephes griseus* Guer. In the course of the bio-ecological studies of South Indian aquatic Hemiptera of the family Nepidae, it was found that various factors-visual, tactile and chemical-play an important